

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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UNCLAS ATHENS 2578

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OREP (CODEL JAVITS)  
SUBJECT: SENATOR JAVITS/REMARKS TO PRESS AT HELLENIKON AIRPORT  
ON ARRIVING ATHENS, TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1978

1. FOLLOWING ARE SENATOR JAVITS' REMARKS TO THE PRESS AT  
HELLENIKON AIRPORT ON ARRIVING ATHENS, TUESDAY, MARCH 28

2. Q. MR JAVITS, WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT IN ATHENS?

3. A: WELL, I HAVE NOT BEEN HERE SINCE THE COLONELS TOOK OVER.  
I'D NEVER COME HERE IN THE ABSENCE OF DEMOCRACY. I AM TOO FOND OF  
GREECE AND ITS PEOPLE TO DO THAT. BUT NOW THAT DEMOCRACY HAS  
RETURNED, AT THE SOONEST OPPORTUNITY THAT I WAS IN THE AREA, I'VE  
COME TO PAY A VISIT, TO DISCUSS THEIR SITUATION WITH THE GOVERNMENTAL  
MINISTERS AND LEADERS AND, GENERALLY, TO RENEW MY ACQUAINTANCE  
WITH GREECE. YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT, FOR A GOOD MANY YEARS, I WAS  
OCCUPED WITH A GREAT PROJECT TO DEVELOP ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. AND I FELT VERY DISAPPOINTED WHEN  
THAT WAS STOPPED BY THE COMING OF THE COLONELS AND THE ABSENCE OF  
DEMOCRACY. I DON'T KNOW THAT IT CAN BE RESTORED, BUT I HAVE COME  
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TO SEE WHAT IS GOING ON.

4. Q. AND WHICH PERSONALITIES ARE YOU GOING TO MEET HERE?

5. A. WELL, I HOPE TO MEET MR KARAMANLIS, WHOM I KNEW IN PARIS,  
AND WHO IS A MOST DISTINGUISHED LEADER FOR FREEDOM AND HIS---  
SUCH...MINISTERS AS I FEEL THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH ME.

6. Q. WHAT ABOUT THE FOREIGN MINISTER?

7. A. WELL, I'LL UNDOUBTEDLY SEE HIM. I AM A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE. I'VE BEEN TO TURKEY? I'VE BEEN TO ISRAEL; I GUESS HE'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THINGS.

8. Q. SIR, IT WAS REPORTED FROM ANKARA THAT YOU SAID YOU ARE FOR THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS. IS THAT CORRECT?

9. A. I DO NOT WISH TO QUARREL WITH PRESS REPORTS. THE FACT IS THAT I AM NEITHER PRO-GREEK NOR PRO-TURKISH. I AM A FRIEND OF BOTH COUNTRIES. I HAD A PROJECT HERE WHICH SOUGHT TO UNITE BOTH COUNTRIES IN COMMON ENDEAVOURS. I HOPE...ALWAYS...TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT END AND TO THE ARTS OF PEACE. IF I CAN DO ANYTHING TO HELP IN THAT REGARD, I WISH TO HELP IN BOTH COUNTRIES WITHOUT FAVOR, WITHOUT PREJUDICE, WITHOUT FAVORITES. IT IS A FACT THAT I HAVE COME TO GREECE MANY TIMES, AND THAT I LOVE IT. I BROUGHT MY FAMILY HERE YEARS AGO AND SO IT'S A VERY NATURAL RETURN.

10. Q. WOULD YOU LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE SITUATION IN ISRAEL AT THIS MOMENT?

11. A. WELL, I THINK THAT THERE IS A REAL ISSUE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL ABOUT THE TERMS

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UPON WHICH PEACE MAY BE OBTAINED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. AND I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A DISCUSSION -- DIFFERENCE OF OPINION -- AS BETWEEN NATIONS OF GREAT TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND THE SPECIAL RELATION WHICH CONSISTS OF OUR COMMITMENT TO SEE TO THE SURVIVAL AND SECURITY OF ISRAEL REMAINS AS STRONG AS EVER. IT IS HEAVILY SUPPORTED IN THE CONGRESS. IT IS A DIFFERENCE OF VIEW BETWEEN FRIENDS.  
I AM CONFIDENT IT WILL BE RESOLVED.

12. Q. YOU DON'T SEE IT AS A THREAT? I MEAN, YOU DON'T SEE THIS DIFFERENCE OF OPINION NOW BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER AS A THREAT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY?

13. A. I CANNOT CONCEIVE OF THAT IN ANY U.S. POLICY. I DEEPLY BELIEVE THAT WE WILL FIND WAYS TO ACCOMMODATE THESE DIFFERENCES AND TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL LEAD TO SOME PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT AS A BEGINNING TOWARDS PEACE IN THE AREA. THIS IS A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY. WE ALL REALIZE IT. IT IS REALIZED IN ISRAEL. I AM SURE IT IS REALIZED IN EGYPT WHERE I HAVE BEEN WITHIN THE YEAR. AND I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN ALL MAKE IT COME TRUE IN FACT THROUGH SOME FORM OF PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. THANK YOU.

MCCLOSKEY

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